

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The applicant hereby confirms the provisional election of Group I, claims 1-10, without traverse. Non-elected claims 11-30 have been canceled, without prejudice.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 3-5 and 7 is respectfully acknowledged.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 as well as the subject matter of intervening claim 2 from which allowable claim 3 formerly depended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is now in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1, thereby placing claim 4 in condition for immediate allowance.

Allowable claims 5 and 7, moreover, have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 1 from which they formerly depended, thereby placing claims 5 and 7 in condition for immediate allowance.

And claims 6 and 8-10 remain depending from (now allowable) claim 1, so that claims 6 and 8-10 are also in condition for immediate allowance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims (namely, claims 1 and 4-10) are now in condition for immediate allowance.

It is noted that some minor amendments have been made to each of claims 1 and 5-10 to make minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct some minor antecedent basis problems. These amendments, however, are clerical in nature and are clearly not related to patentability and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1 and 4-10 be approved and entered, and that this application be allowed.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1 and 4-10 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a [glass] substrate
for an information recording medium, comprising [the steps of]:
polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and
subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass
5 substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C
hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber
Industry, Japan SRIS O101;

wherein the sponge comprises an underlayer and a surface
layer, and the Asker C hardness of the surface layer is not less
10 than 40; and

wherein the surface layer of the sponge comprises a resin
having a 100% modulus of not less than 45kg.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim [3] 1, wherein
the resin is a polycarbonate type polyurethane resin.

5. (Amended) A method [as claimed in claim 1,] of
manufacturing a substrate for an information recording medium,
comprising:

polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and
5 subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass
substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C

hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan SRIS 0101;

wherein the surface layer of the sponge [has a surface layer comprising] comprises a spongy body having a mean opening diameter of not less than 30µm.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface scrubbing is carried out using an alkaline aqueous solution having a pH of not less than 8 [pH].

7. (Amended) A method [as claimed in claim 1,] of manufacturing a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

polishing at least one surface of a glass substrate; and
5 subjecting the polished at least one surface of the glass substrate to surface scrubbing using a sponge having an Asker C hardness of not less than 40 according to The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan SRIS 0101;

wherein the surface scrubbing is carried out using an acidic aqueous solution having a pH of not more than 5 [pH].

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising [the step of] subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to texturing before the surface scrubbing is carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising [the step of] subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to chemical strengthening after [that has been subjected to] the surface scrubbing [to chemical strengthening] has been carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising [the step of subjecting texturing and chemical strengthening in this order to] subjecting the at least one surface of the glass substrate to texturing and then to chemical strengthening before the surface scrubbing is carried out on the at least one surface of the glass substrate.